

An Analysis of Approbation and Sympathy Maxims Based on Leech's Politeness Principles in Emma Movie

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ABSTRACT

This research aims to identify the most dominant type of politeness principles especially on approbation and sympathy maxims and the application both of them in Emma movie. This research was descriptive study. The corpus of this research was the transcript of dialogue spoken by the characters in Emma movie. The data are collected using the theory of Creswell which consists of five interrelated steps. These steps respectively deal with identifying the movie, gaining information relate to that movie, considering the focus of information, designing tool named datasheet, and administering the data. Then the data were analyzed descriptively using the theory from Miles, Huberman, & Saldana which consists of data condensation, data display, and drawing conclusion. The researcher used the theory of Leech to analyze the most dominant type of politeness principles especially approbation and sympathy maxims and also the application of both of them in the movie. The findings of this research found the most dominant type of politeness principles in Emma movie is approbation maxim with 37 data (72.55%) out of 51 data. It is followed by sympathy maxim with 14 data (27.45%) out of 51 data. The application of these two maxims happens in family discourse. This is because the context of language usage in the early 19th-century English society. The abuse of power and wealth, all prove that the class status of Emma's family plays a significant role in the shaping how the politeness works in society.

Keywords: *Politeness Principles, Leech, Approbation Maxim, Sympathy Maxim*

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INTRODUCTION

Language is a medium to perform the ideas, thoughts, and feelings. It is used as a communication tool to have interaction in society. Hence, language is used to establish a good relationship among people. People can express their feelings to someone, as the hearer will understand what the speaker wants. Basically, it proves that language as communication tool has an important role in human life, to fulfill their own needs as social creatures who need each other.

Pragmatic is a study that tries to understand the meaning of utterances by looking at the situation when the utterances happen (Mulyono, 2016, p.10). It defines the way on

how people use language for communication in the context. Someone who needs a towel after having an exercise may say “it is so sweaty here” instead of “give me the towel”. In this situation, if the hearer does not understand the context, the hearer probably will end up doing nothing. The speaker utters an implicit message through an utterance, the hearer must know the context of the utterance used by the speaker. Then, the hearer will be able to interpret what the speaker actually means.

Politeness is one of the discussions in pragmatics. It is the way people save other people’s faces and feelings in communication. Politeness is the awareness to address someone appropriately. Due to the importance of politeness in communication, some people develop some theories to support their skills in communicating with other people. Leech (1983, p.132) introduces politeness related to maxims. They are tact maxim, generosity maxim, approbation maxim, modesty maxim, agreement maxim, and sympathy maxim.

Someone who has high pragmatic speaking ability knows which the best politeness maxim to be applied in communication. It helps the speaker to minimize the potential for conflict while having interaction with others. The speaker can maintain proper etiquette and speak appropriately to others without offending them by analyzing the utterances used to get the meaning. On the contrary, someone who has low pragmatic speaking ability may experience difficulty of demonstrating appropriate speaking due to the deficits with social interactions. It becomes very important for the researcher to bring up politeness principles to be researched. Furthermore, the researcher chooses to study approbation and sympathy maxims in the utterances spoken by the main characters.

The reason is these two maxims are more urgent to learn since the phenomenon of crisis politeness in our society. In communication, the researcher often finds the expression which expresses dispraise of other or even the expression of antipathy to other from the interlocutors. Sometimes ones think there is unnecessary to employ these maxims which result others feeling disrespected. People start to ignore the existence of showing praise and sympathy as a part of politeness in communication. The approbation utterance, “**congratulation** on your final examination!” will make someone feel appreciated. Likewise sympathy utterance, “**I am sorry** for your loss” will make someone feel loved. Therefore, the researcher is interested to focus on approbation and sympathy maxims.

Movie is one of the media which are popular nowadays. Movie is a kind of entertainment media which the dialogues present actual language use in daily life. One of the movies that show how politeness principles are implemented in society is Emma. The language usage among the characters in this movie is in family discourse. It happens from father to daughter, sister-in-law to brother-in-law, and friend to friend. The setting of the movie is in the early 19th-century English society. The upscale society of a well off village in Highbury. The Woodhouse family is very highly looked upon in Highbury. Emma and her father are also viewed as the cultural elite. The abuse of power and wealth, all prove that the class status of this family plays a significant role in the shaping how the politeness works in society. It still has relevant with this present life in terms of politeness principles used in

daily communication. It represents the genteel English upper class which maintains a good manner in communicating to others.

When the researcher studies the Emma movie, she is interested in employing Leech's politeness principles especially approbation and sympathy maxims that occur in the dialogue of the movie. This movie can be a good example for the readers as the knowledge of politeness which to be considered as one of the matters nowadays in society. It can shape the awareness of readers to address people appropriately. In addition, it can help English learners especially English Department students who study pragmatics, especially politeness principles. Besides, this present research is designed to investigate the approbation and sympathy maxims.

Research dealing with pragmatics, especially politeness principles, has been conducted several times. Their meanings are based on the context. One of the studies focusing on politeness principles was entitled "Leech's politeness principles in Lenong Betawi humorous dialogue entitled Anak Durhaka", which conducted by Lustyantje & Dewi (2019). They reported that there were six maxims used in the dialogue. The agreement maxim was the highest, and modesty maxim was the lowest fulfillment politeness maxims in Lenong Betawi humorous dialogue. Maharani (2017) in the research entitled "Politeness maxim of the main character in Secret forgiven", reported that the main character performed all types of six politeness maxims. The most appearing politeness maxims were the approbation maxim and agreement maxim. Also, Salafiyah & Kiptiyah (2020), in the research entitled "Politeness principles as seen in the dialogue between characters on Freedom writers movie," reported that there were six types of politeness principles used by the students. The present research will apply different theories than that employed in the above-mentioned studies. The present research concerns the approbation and sympathy maxims as a part of Leech's politeness principles, while the three researches focused on the six types of maxim. The present study will analyze Emma movie different from that analyzed in the previous studies. This research is entitled "An analysis of approbation and sympathy maxims based on Leech's politeness principles in Emma movie".

The present research used descriptive research to describe what the dominant maxim employed by the main character and how the application of approbation and sympathy maxim by the main character in Emma movie.

METHODS

Descriptive research is defined as a research method used to describe the existing phenomena as accurately as possible (Atmowardoyo, 2018, p.198). This research uses a descriptive qualitative since the goal of this study is to understand the findings of language phenomenon of approbation and sympathy maxims in detail which reflect in Emma movie.

Corpus is study based on the examples of language usage in real life (McEnery & Wilson, 2018). The data used in this research is the utterances containing approbation and sympathy maxims in Emma movie. The researcher selects the data related to the focus of phenomenon from the corpus. The corpus of this research is the transcript of the dialogue

spoken in Emma movie. The transcript was retrieved from <https://focusfeaturesguilds2020.com/emma/screenplay/Emma.pdf#page=1&zoom=auto,-207,618>.

According to Creswell (2012, p.205) there are five interrelated steps in the process of qualitative data collection. First, the researcher will identify Emma movie which is considered as the subject of this research. Also, the researcher uses the script of the movie to help her in collecting the data. Second, the researcher will gain the information related to research purposes. The information in form of data from utterances spoken by the main characters in Emma movie that contain politeness principles especially approbation and sympathy maxims. Third, the researcher will focus on the frequency of the application of approbation and sympathy maxims in the movie. Fourth, the researcher chooses instrument to collect the information. In this research, the researcher herself will collect the obtained information from Emma movie using a tool named datasheet. Fifth, the obtained information will be identified and classified based on the research problem in this research.

The data in this research analyzes by using theory from Miles, Huberman, & Saldana (2014) in following procedures below.

1. Data condensation

Data condensation refers to the process of selecting, focusing, simplifying, abstracting, and/or transforming the data that appear in the full corpus (body) of written up field notes, interview transcripts, documents, and other empirical materials. In this research, there is already a corpus from a script of Emma movie.

2. Data display

The second major flow of analysis activity is data display. Generically, a display is an organized, compressed assembly of information that allows conclusion drawing and action. The displays discussed include many types of matrices, graphs, charts, and networks. Looking at displays helps us understand what is happening and to do something, either analyze further or take action based on that understanding. In this research, the researcher uses a datasheet to note information or data which focuses on approbation and sympathy maxims. The example of datasheet can be seen in table 1.

3. Drawing and Verifying Conclusions

The third stream of analysis activity is conclusion drawing and verification. From the start of data collection, the qualitative analyst interprets what things mean by noting patterns, explanations, causal flows, and propositions. The competent researcher holds these conclusions lightly, maintaining openness and skepticism, but the conclusions are still there, vague at first, then increasingly explicit and grounded. In this researcher, the researcher presents the data in the discussion. She takes some examples from the findings and elaborates further explanation of the interpretation of approbation and sympathy maxims. It shows as follow.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

The Frequency Use of Approbation and Sympathy Maxims in Emma Movie

Table 1. The frequency of occurrence of approbation and sympathy maxims in emma

No	Main Characters	Politenes Principles		Total
		Approbation	Sympathy	
1	Emma Woodhouse	13	11	24
2	Harriet Smith	12	1	13
3	George Knightley	12	2	14
	Total	37	14	51
	Percentage (%)	72.55	27.45	100

Table 1 presented the occurrence of politeness principles especially approbation and sympathy maxims in the dialogue of main characters in Emma movie. The table showed that the main characters used approbation maxim more often than sympathy maxim in their utterances. The most dominant maxim of politeness principles was approbation maxim with 37 data (72.55%). The main characters, especially Emma used this maxim more often than other characters. It was because Emma took an important role in this movie as the protagonist of the story which had more scenes than others. The second position that is often used is sympathy maxim with 14 data (27.45%). The main characters, especially Emma used this maxim more often than other characters. Emma was a kind of woman who loved to busy herself with social events so the feeling of sympathy had been embedded in herself than other characters. Therefore, based on the table above, the highest frequency used of politeness principles between approbation and sympathy maxims by the main characters in Emma movie was achieved by approbation maxim. Therefore, answering the first research question about the most dominant maxim in politeness in this reseach is approbation maxim. Approbation maxim occurs 37 times out of 51 total data. It is followed by sympathy maxim that occurs 41 times out of 51 total data in the movie.

The application of approbation and sympathy maxim by the main character in Emma movie

1. The Use of Approbation Maxim

Based on the data, the characters used approbation maxim in their communication to the others because she/he wants to minimize dispraise of other and maximize praise of others. Thus, the characters show praise to build a good relationship among the participants as part of politeness in communication. The example of the utterances in Emma movie indicating Approbation maxim is shown below in written bold.

Data 1/Ap/E

(18.a) Emma : **Mr. Elton is a such a good humoured man. So cheerful, and obliging, and gentle. I think very well of Mr. Elton.**

(18.b) Harriet : I do so wonder, Miss Woodhouse that you should not be going to be married. So charming as you are.

Context of Situation:

Emma and Harriet were walking home together after visiting Randalls drawing room. Emma discussed about a village vicar named Mr. Elton that they had just visited there. She planned to prove her ability of matchmaking for both of them. Emma would like to couple Harriet with Mr. Elton. So, Emma said the good sides of Mr. Elton to impress her, as Harriet also responded with a praise for Emma in the phrase “So charming”.

Data Interpretation:

The utterance **So charming** as you are must be recognizable as a compliment. Harriet had heard the good things about Mr. Elton through Emma. Then, she thought that Emma was also a person which had lots of surpluses. Emma was a beautiful, clever, and rich young woman who rejected the idea of marriage. Then, Harriet wondered how a young woman as charming as Emma was rejecting that idea. So, Harriet expressed her curiosity to Emma, while at the end of utterances she implicated a praise to the addressee by saying “So charming as you are”. Conversely, it increased praise of the addressee as an expression of politeness to others. Harriet’s utterance contains the fulfillment of an approbation maxim since she maximizes praise and minimizes dispraise to Emma.

Data 2/Ap/K

- (21.a) Harriet : Truly, you are the very picture of good health, Miss Woodhouse. Mrs. Martin thinks you the most handsome woman in all of Highbury!
- (21.b) Emma : Oh, You must never flatter me in Mr. Knightley’s hearing, Harriet. He thinks me vain enough already.
- (21.c) Mr. Knightley : I do not think you personally vain. **Considering how very handsome you are**, you seem little occupied with it. Your vanity lies a different way.

Context of Situation:

Emma and Harriet sat on the sofa. Mr. Knightley also sat on his habitual armchair. It seemed the girls had distracted Mr. Knightley reading activity but he remained silent. Harriet was also distracted by an apothecary named Mr. Perry in the room. Mr. Woodhouse was being attended to by his apothecary who was supplying him with new potions and tinctures to test. Harriet was a bit worried about Mr. Woodhouse’s condition. Emma gently informed that it was her father daily routine that contradicted with her seldom indisposed. Harriet praised Emma for that while Mr. Knightley gazed at Emma with his humiliated eyes.

Data Interpretation:

The utterance **very handsome** must be recognizable as a compliment. It contains the expression of maximizing praise and minimizing dispraise to the speech partner. Mr. Knightley realized that his gazes could lead to unpleasant moments for Emma. It strengthened with Emma’s utterances which referred to him. He gave his response by saying “I do not think you personally vain” which meant he was denying what Emma had

just thought about him. It used to minimize the potential for dispraise to others while having communication. Instead, he added a complimenting about Emma in the utterance “Considering how very handsome you are ...”. It clearly maximized the praise for Emma because he acknowledged her beauty. He kept his thoughts about the vanity of Emma because her beauty was exactly something worthy to be proud of. Then, he chose to respect and avoided hurting Emma’s feeling. Therefore, Mr. Knightley’s utterances implicate an approbation maxim since he maximizes praise and minimizes dispraise to the addressee.

1. The Use of Sympathy Maxim

Based on the data, the characters used sympathy maxim in the communication to the others because she/he wants to minimize antipathy between self and other, maximize sympathy between self and other. Thus, the characters show sympathy to build a good relationship among the participants as part of politeness in communication. The example of the utterances in Emma movie indicating Sympathy maxim is shown below in written bold.

Data 3/Sy/E

(32.a) Emma : **Are you unwell?**

(32.b) Jane Fairfax : Miss Woodhouse, we all know at times what it is to be wearied in spirits. Mine, I confess, are exhausted

Context of Situation:

Mr. Knightley opened Donwell for the exploration to the guests. The dust sheets had been taken away, and the chandeliers unbagged. The place looked splendid, though still very like a museum. The guests were looking at the pictures around the Picture Gallery. Some of the guests in there were Emma and Jane. Emma stayed where she was. She looked up at the vast paneled wall of pictures, all landscapes, and seascapes, vistas of countries and places she had never seen. Lost in thought, she moved down the hall, looking at each picture. But then Emma turned in surprise. Jane looked stressed. The room had emptied and they were now alone. Jane seemed on the verge of disclosing something.

Data Interpretation:

The utterance **Are you unwell?** must be recognizable as the form of sympathy. It minimizes antipathy and maximizes sympathy between self and other. Although the utterance was not in the form of courtesy of congratulation and condolences, Emma’s dialogue could be interpreted as the application of the sympathy maxim since she maximized sympathy by saying “Are you unwell?” toward Jane who was stressed and exhausted. In this case, Emma worried to Jane so she was asking her of what she felt which commiserating Jane without maximizing the antipathy. Emma wanted to make sure the condition of Jane which in the aspect of sympathy maxim. The utterance was expressing of caring and also increased sympathy. Therefore, Emma’s utterance uses a sympathy maxim since she is maximizing sympathy and minimizing antipathy to the addressee.

Data 4/Sy/E

(33.a) Emma : Miss Fairfax? **What a pity you didn’t bring your music.**

(33.b) Jane Fairfax : I hope that I can recollect the tune.

Context of Situation:

Emma seated at the piano, playing for the guests, who were seated in concert format around her. Harriet sat at the back to enjoy Emma's performance. Her playing was competent, but it lacked brilliance. She finished the piece and everyone applauded. She stood up, gesturing to Jane to take her place.

Data Interpretation:

The utterance **What a pity** must be recognizable as the form of sympathy. It minimizes antipathy and maximizes sympathy between self and other. Emma expressed her sympathy to Jane through her utterance showing the effort of avoiding antipathy. The utterance, "What a pity you didn't bring your music" was maximizing sympathy to Jane because she cared when Jane did not bring her music notes. It was an expression of sympathy without minimizing the expressing of condolences. The utterance expressed caring and also increased sympathy. Therefore, Emma's utterance uses a sympathy maxim since she maximizes sympathy and minimizes antipathy to the addressee.

CONCLUSION

The first research objective of this research is identifying and knowing the most frequency maxim used by the main characters in the Emma movie. The focused maxims in this research are approbation and sympathy maxims. The data of the research are analyzed based on the theory of politeness principles proposed by Leech (1983). There are 51 data that represent politeness principles in the utterances of the main characters. The findings of the research reveal approbation maxim as the dominant maxim employed in the movie. Approbation maxim occurs 37 times out of 51 total data. It is followed by sympathy maxim that occurs 14 times in the movie. The main character named Emma uses approbation maxim more often than other characters which takes 13 times out of 37 data.

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